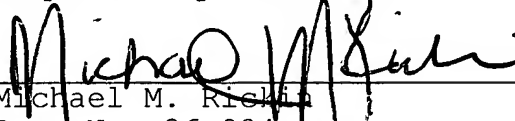## REMARKS

Applicants have amended the Summary of the Invention to be consistent with the amendments made herein to independent claims 1, 10, 19 and 21. Applicants have amended method claims 1, 2, 5-14 and 16 to remove therefrom the words "the step(s) of" or "step of." Applicants have amended independent apparatus claims 19 and 21 to remove the words "the step of" after "comprising" which were inadvertently in those claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12|30|02

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For: Real Time Asset Optimization

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ATTACHMENT TO NONFEE PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
DATED DECEMBER 30, 2002

This attachment includes the marked amendments to the Summary of the Invention as follows:

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) receiving at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) receiving at least one order for production of a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) using a predetermined criteria to evaluate the at least one received maintenance trigger and the production order to propose therefrom one or more solutions for jointly scheduling the maintenance action and the at least one production order.

A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) defining a maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

c) transmitting in response to the defined maintenance schedule a blocking order requesting a time to perform the maintenance action to a system that schedules the production.

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A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets;

b) requesting in response to the at least one maintenance trigger a time to perform the maintenance action; and

c) determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and in response to the request for the time to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action.

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising:

a) a system for scheduling the maintenance of at least one of the assets;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means using a predetermined criteria for evaluating at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets and at least one order for production of at least a certain quantity of the certain product and proposing to the maintenance scheduling system and the production scheduling system one or more solutions for jointly scheduling the maintenance action and the production order.

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to define a maintenance schedule for the maintenance action; and

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to the defined maintenance schedule received from maintenance scheduling system for transmitting a

blocking order requesting a time to perform the maintenance action to the production scheduling system.

A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of the assets to generate a request for a time to perform the maintenance action;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to the request for the time to perform the maintenance action for determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to the production and the time to perform the maintenance action a time for performance of the maintenance action and transmitting the time for performance of the maintenance action to the production scheduling system.

This attachment also includes the amendments to claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 19 and 21 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) receiving at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets;

b) receiving at least one order for production of a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) using a predetermined criteria to evaluate said at least one received maintenance trigger and said production order to propose therefrom one or more solutions for jointly scheduling said maintenance action and said at least one production order.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising [the steps of] transmitting said proposed one or more solutions to a system for scheduling the maintenance of said at least one

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of said assets and to a system for scheduling production for said certain quantity of said certain product.

5. (Amended) A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets;

b) defining a maintenance schedule for said maintenance action; and

c) transmitting in response to said defined maintenance schedule a blocking order requesting a time to perform said maintenance action to a system that schedules said production.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said production scheduling system produces a production schedule and said method further comprises [the step of] said production scheduling system determining the possibility of fitting said blocking order time for performance request into said production schedule.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired either by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said method further comprises [the step of] said production scheduling system transmitting a confirmation to said computerized maintenance management system when said production scheduling system accepts said blocking order.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired either by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said method further comprises [the step of] said production scheduling system transmitting to said computerized maintenance management system a new time for performance of said maintenance action when said production scheduling system cannot accept said blocking order.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising [the step of] said computerized maintenance management system

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considers the feasibility of said new time for performance of said maintenance action transmitted by said production scheduling system.

10. (Amended) A method for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) acquiring at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets;

b) requesting in response to said at least one maintenance trigger a time to perform said maintenance action; and

c) determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to said production and in response to said request for said time to perform said maintenance action a time for performance of said maintenance action.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising [the step of] transmitting a request for said determined time to a system that schedules said production.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising [the step of] said production scheduling system determining the availability of said requested determined time.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said at least one maintenance trigger is acquired by being received at or generated by a computerized maintenance management system and said [step of] determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed in other than said production scheduling system and said computerized maintenance management system.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said [step of] determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed by a means for optimizing assets to a predetermined level.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein said [step of] determining said time for performance of said maintenance action is performed by an asset optimization system and said

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method.

19. (Amended) A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets to define a maintenance schedule for said maintenance action; and

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to said defined maintenance schedule received from maintenance scheduling system for transmitting a blocking order requesting a time to perform said maintenance action to said production scheduling system.

21. (Amended) A system for optimizing the maintenance of assets and production comprising [the steps of]:

a) a maintenance scheduling system responsive to at least one maintenance trigger indicative that a maintenance action is or may be required for at least one of said assets to generate a request for a time to perform said maintenance action;

b) a system for scheduling production of at least a certain quantity of a certain product; and

c) means responsive to said request for said time to perform said maintenance action for determining by use of a predetermined criteria related to said production and said time to perform said maintenance action a time for performance of said maintenance action and transmitting said time for performance of said maintenance action to said production scheduling system.